

**In the Claims**

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1. [Currently amended] A method for providing procurement services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising the steps of:

establishing in a computer database a user profile for each person authorized by a customer company to access said procurement services;

associating each said company with a company group of related companies;

said user profile specifying for each said user a user company and company group;

providing for each procurement resource to be shared among said users a resource profile in a computer database specifying for each resource those said companies to have access to said procurement resource; and

16 responsive to said user profile and said resource  
17 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement  
18 resources.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 the step of providing said procurement resources in a front-  
3 end catalog and requisition server.

*af* 1 3. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

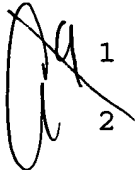
3 *B* receiving a user request from a first client browser to  
4 log in to said front-end server;


5 responsive to said request, providing a user interface  
6 at said client browser only to procurement resources  
7 authorized by said user profile and said resource  
8 profiles.

1 4. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized  
4 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a  
5 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract  
6 resource; and

7 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with  
8 respect to requisitions originating with users from  
9 each said company group.

 1 5. [Original] The method of claim 4, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

 3  
4 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company  
5 groups with respect to the same volume specific  
contract for goods or services.

1 6. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to  
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 7. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2 resources including a vendor catalog.

1 8. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2 resources including a blanket order procurement contract for  
3 goods or services.

1 9. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2 resources including a user profile table.

1 10. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2 resources including costs centers.

1 11. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2 resources including accounting general ledger codes with  
3 company group specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 12. [Original] System for providing procurement services  
2 to a plurality of customer companies, comprising:

3 a front end server;

4 a user profile for each person authorized by a customer

5 company to access said procurement services;

6 each said company associated with a company group of

7 related companies;

8 said user profile specifying for each said user a user

9 company and company group;

10 a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among

11 said users;

12 a resource profile for each said procurement resource

13 specifying those said companies to have access to said

14 procurement resource; and

15 said user profile and said resource profiles for

16 controlling user access to said procurement resources.

1 13. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement

2 resources further comprising:

3 vendor catalog;  
4 a blanket order procurement contract for goods or  
5 services; and  
6 a table of user profiles.

1 14. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement  
2 resources further comprising:

3 costs centers; and  
4 accounting general ledger codes with company group  
5 specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 15. [Original] A program storage device readable by a  
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for  
4 providing procurement services to a plurality of customer  
5 companies, said method steps comprising:  
6 establishing a user profile for each person authorized

7 by a customer company to access said procurement  
8 services;  
  
9 associating each said company with a company group of  
10 related companies;  
  
11 said user profile specifying for each said user a user  
12 company and company group;  
  
13 providing for each procurement resource to be shared  
14 among said users a resource profile specifying for each  
15 resource those said companies to have access to said  
16 procurement resource; and  
  
17 responsive to said user profile and said resource  
18 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement  
19 resources.

1 16. [Original] The program storage device of claim 15,  
2 said method steps further comprising providing said  
3 procurement resources in a front-end catalog and requisition  
4 server.

1 17. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,  
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a user request from a first client browser to  
4 log in to said front-end server;

5 responsive to said request, providing a user interface  
6 at said client browser only to procurement resources  
7 authorized by said user profile and said resource  
8 profiles.

18. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,  
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized  
4 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a  
5 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract  
6 resource; and

7 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with  
8 respect to requisitions originating with users from  
9 each said company group.



1 19. [Original] The program storage device of claim 18, said  
2 method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company  
4 groups with respect to the same volume specific  
5 contract for goods or services.

1 20. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,  
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to  
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 21. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,  
2 said procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

1 22. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,  
2 said procurement resources including a blanket order  
3 procurement contract for goods or services.

1 23. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,  
2 said procurement resources including a user profile table.

1 24. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,  
2 said procurement resources including costs centers.

1 25. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,  
2 said procurement resources including accounting general  
3 ledger codes with company group specific accounting rules  
4 and defaults.

1 26. [Original] A computer program product or computer  
2 program element for providing procurement services to a  
3 plurality of customer companies according to method steps  
4 comprising:

5 establishing a user profile for each person authorized  
6 by a customer company to access said procurement  
7 services;

8 associating each said company with a company group of

9 related companies;

10 said user profile specifying for each said user a user  
11 company and company group;

12 providing for each procurement resource to be shared  
13 among said users a resource profile specifying for each  
14 resource those said companies to have access to said  
15 procurement resource; and

16 responsive to said user profile and said resource  
17 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement  
18 resources.